

CONFIDENTIAL

7 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Re-examination of NIE-55/1: "Communist Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action in Korea"

1. The current National Intelligence Estimate on Communist capabilities and probable courses of action in Korea (NIE-55/1) was published on 30 July 1952. This estimate mentioned the possibility that jet light bombers might be introduced into the Chinese Communist Air Force, thereby greatly enhancing its capabilities. This possibility has now become a fact. Two Chinese Communist Air Force regiments, comprising a total of 84 aircraft, have now been equipped with these bombers, and the build-up appears to be continuing. The DI/USAF estimates that one regiment of these bombers could become operational by the end of January and that additional regiments could become operational beginning in early spring. By late spring the Communists will probably have at their disposal an IL-28 striking force capable of making daytime strikes against UN forces and installations in Korea, the adjoining Korean waters, and Southwest Japan.

2. In view of this and other recent developments, we believe that a re-study of Communist capabilities and probable courses of action in Korea is desirable. The Board therefore proposes immediately to initiate NIE 55/2: Communist Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action in Korea.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL